GREATER LAWNDALE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NEWS NOTES

3152 W. ROOSEVELT RD. CHICAGO 12 VA 6-3226

VOL.III NO. 37 MARCH, 1959

Non-Profit Organization

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Chicago, Ill.
Permit No. 738

Mrs. Helen Winters
26 Shanley Ave.
Newark, New Jersey

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

BOARD APPROVES MORTGAGE GUARANTEE CORPORATION; HOME IMPROVEMENTS CLINIC

Proposals to set up a Mortgage Guarantee Corporation and Home Improvement Clinic have been approved by the GLCC Board of Directors, according to C. J. Peck, Jr., President. These proposals were presented to the Board of Directors by Wilton Brown, chairman of the Special Committee to consider these proposals at the last Board of Directors meeting on February 24, 1959. They were based on the work of Leonard Styche, consultant to staff.

The Mortgage Guarantee Corporation proposal would provide for insurance against loss by financial institutions making home improvement and home purchase loans in Lawndale. In effect, this would mean that any financial institution making such a loan in this area would be guaranteed its investment. Up to now long-term federally insured mortgages and loans have been virtually impossible to obtain.

"GLCC is one of four community organizations taking these steps to make these proposals effective," said Mr. Peck. "The details of such a corporation have already been developed and applications have been made to interested parties to bring this corporation into being," added Mr. Peck. Mr. Peck pointed out, however, that participation by members of the Commission is not mandatory.

The other proposal calls for a Home Improvement Clinic where interested families could come for advice in solving their particular rehabilitation problems Experts in home remodelling and maintenance, including contractors, tradesmen, building suppliers, architects and attorneys, would be recruited to give advice and help to persons considering home improvements. A library, files on architects, lending institutions and construction companies competent in the field of home rehabilitation is contemplated.

> "Upgrading is just as contageous as downgrading. Modernize the first job in a run-down block and the whole block's values rise, even before the neighbors begin rebuilding their own homes..."
>
> Peter Turchon, Boston home remodeler quoted in "Practical Builder"

"These programs are not dependent on federal aid," said Mr. Peck, "but we do hope that the activities of this will mean earlier approval for FHA insured loans for Lawndale. The Commission has taken these steps because it feels that conservation is a vital and necessary function of every large city. Conservation rebuilds people as well as buildings--it's a program in which everybody profits," stated Mr. Peck.

Members of the Special Committee were: Wilton Brown, Chairman, Claude Audley, Melvin Hart, Paul Howard, Walter Welkom and Miss Ethel Vrana.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 19 – Franklin Park Community Council Meeting, 8:00 p.m., 1409 S. Kolin Ave.
March 24 – Board of Directors Meeting, 12:15 p.m., George Williams Room, Sears YMCA.
March 26 – GLCC Ladies' Auxiliary, 8:00 p.m., Sears YMCA.
April 5 – Lawndale Youth Commission Tea, 4-7:00 p.m., Douglas Park Fieldhouse.
April 13-19 – GLCC Lawndale Health Week - (See p. 2 for details.)
April 14 – Executive Committee Meeting, 12:15 p.m., Sears YMCA.
April 30 – GLCC Annual Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Sears YMCA.

"SO YOU'RE BUYING A HOME" IMPROVEMENT FINANCING – Concluded

Surprisingly enough, the danger in improvement financing is the direct our grouth of the practice of the United States Government under its improvement financing insurance program. The home owner must be ever alert to the statement by a salesman that his purchase is "FHA" insured. In all cases FHA financing relieves the seller of the responsibility for misrepresentation.

What then may the conscientious buyer do to properly improve his home, and at the same time secure the real benefits for which the FHA program was intended? These helps are available to the home owner. He must use his own energy and initiative to take advantage of them.

First, in the purchase of any home improvement, deal only with reputable community merchants. You will find that the reputable merchant in your own community has a lasting and continuing interest in your satisfaction. He knows that his continued success in the community is dependent upon the satisfaction of his own customers and that "a satisfied customer is the best advertisement."

When you contemplate any improvement task, you should also ask for and get as many bids as possible. Remember these are large tasks and the payments for them represent a genuine undertaking. You owe it to yourself to get three or four bids, and carefully study every part of the work to be done.

Above all, be sure to keep separate the purchase and the financing. If you can pay cash, so much the better. Of course, most home owners do not have on hand the large sums of money necessary to finance their home improvements. Financing such improvements through "credit terms" and "time payment" offered by merchandisers is always the most expensive.

Thus on the same theory that we deal with each merchant only for the commodity that he has to sell, we should not deal with merchants when the function of credit which we seek is provided more properly by a bank.

After you have selected the job and the merchant to perform it, then seek the funds from your local banker. The benefits of dealing with your local bank are very real, and will result in a very large dollar savings to you.

Your bank officer is well acquainted with local practices and has a good knowledge of the costs of the project you contemplate. His years of experience have given him a good idea of what the job should cost. He should, and will, tell you if you are getting good value for your money. He will show you how to get a written guarantee which will mean that the merchant will stand back of his work.

And should your banker consider the project worthwhile and the cost reasonable, then he can se- the loan for you, FHA guaranteed, for your protection and his, and with a savings that will be really passed on to you.

Next month - Rental and Income property.

LAWNDALE HEALTH WEEK, APRIL 13–19, TO FEATURE MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

Complete medical and dental examinations for only 50¢ for kindergarten and first graders will be featured at various agencies throughout Lawndale during the week of April 13–19.

GLCC is sponsoring health week in cooperation with Marcy Center, 1539 S. Springfield; Franklin Park Field House, 1409 S. Kolin; Sears YMCA, 3210 W. Arthington; Midwest Youth & Community Committee, 703 S. Kedzie; Boys Brotherhood Republic, 1530 S. Hamlin Ave., American Boys Commonwealth, 3415 W. 13th Place; St. Anthony De Padua Hospital, 2875 W. 19th St.; and the Infant Welfare Stations at 3713 S. Hamlin, 2401 S. Kedzie Ave., and 4350 W. 16th St.

"For the first time in the city's history, the Infant Welfare Stations will be open to the public in this way, and we in Lawndale feel that it is a great privilege" stated Dr. Agnes Lattimer, Health Committee Chairman.

St. Anthony De Padua Hospital will conduct examinations for parochial school children during the entire month of April; public school children will be handled at Sears YMCA, Monday, to Friday, from 9:00 to 3:00 P.M., at Marcy Center, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 to 12:00 P.M. Infant Welfare Stations will be open each Tuesday during the month of April from 9:00 to 12:00 P.M.

Medical and dental examinations will be given by volunteer doctors and dentists.

Movies, literature and speaker will also be made available to block club, church, PTA and general meetings. Volunteer women and teenagers urgently are needed. If interested, please call VA 6–3226.

GLCC HOUSING ZONING SCORE BOARD
FEBRUARY 1, to FEBRUARY 28, 1959

Complaints in Court . . . 8
Complaints Currently under investigation by GLCC 56

	TO DATE	LAST 30 DAYS
Complaints Received.....	364	19
Inspections by GLCC.....	278	15
Inspections by Dept. Buildings.	126	6
Complaints closed by GLCC....	116	10
Complaints closed by Dept. of Buildings.....	92	2

Members and Consultants of GLCC's Health Committee gathered recently to finalize plans for observance of Lawndale's Health Week, April 13–19 throughout the community. Seated l. to r. Juliette Buford, Joseph Rosen, Edward Wilke, Walter McConner, Aaron Spitzer, Dr. Agnes Lattimer, Mildred Berman, Raymond Carlyle, Colores Bas co, Mildred Lavizzo, and A. Johnson.

Mr. James E. Dittus, GLCC director and chairman of the Finance Committee explains the needs and goals of the Commission program to representatives of business and industry in the Lawndale area at a luncheon held recently in the Graemere Hotel. The Commission is currently seeking $84,000 for expanded operations. In the far left (seated) is C.J.Peck, Jr., GLCC president, James E. Dittus, James C. Worthy, Vice-president of Sears Roebuck & Co. and C.L. Hardy, president of Jos. T. Ryerson & Son, Inc.

BRIEFS

Hattie Mack Block Club met recently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Moore to elect new officers for 1959–60. Elected were: Mrs. Hattie Mack, Pres.; Mrs. Elaine Maiden, Vice-pres.; Mrs. Jessie Mae Lee, Rec'd Sec'y; Mrs. Edmond Moore, Corres. Sec'y; Mrs. Mahala Evans, Fin. Sec'y; and Mrs. Bertha Rigsby, Treasurer...A health "buzz session" was held March 4 by the **Plamondon School PTA**, 1525 S. Washtenaw Ave. Dr. Novis, pediatrician; Mrs. Betty Clark, Head Nurse at Bethany Hospital, 4320 W. Van Buren St.; and Mrs. Rose Ginsburg, health chairman and nurse at Mt. Sinai Hospital, 27510 W. 15th Pl., discussed "Children's Contagious Diseases". Mrs. D. A. Bennett is PTA President...Be sure you see the **Chicago World Flower and Garden Show** at the Amphitheater from March 17 to 24. More than 5,000 tulips, 2000 rose bushes and scores of flowering trees and shrubs will be only part of the show. Gardens and patios will provide the focal points for more than 1000 varieties of living plants... With the addition of 120 new "freshies" **Marshall School's** enrollment will mount to over 2400, accord- to Mr. John Cislo, Assistant Principal...Elliot Donnelley was reelected president of **Chicago Youth Centers** recently...**Mrs. Esther Grover** of 1311 St. Louis Ave. has a new job as office secretary at the **American Boys Commonwealth.** Mrs. Grover is the mother of three young girls and is also President of the Lawson School PTA...Darnell Wright, 1320 S. Homan Ave., took home social security cash in the Lucky Security Numbers Prizes...**Sumner School,** 715 S. Kildare Ave., was one of three Chicago schools among the winners of Freedoms Foundation awards "for their contribution in helping promote a better understanding of the American way of life during 1958."...Mr. James T. Malone is principal... A tea sponsored by the **Lawndale Youth Commission** will be held Sunday, April 5, at Douglas Park Fieldhouse from 4 to 7 P.M. Ald. Ralph Metcalf, 3rd Ward, will be guest speaker...**Douglas Branch Library,** 3353 W. 13th St. invites the teen-age girls to a film program "**GRADUATION BALL**", Thursday, April 16 at 4:30 P.M. Admission is free...Mrs. Josephine

THE PRESIDENT SAYS: --

C.J.PECK, Jr.

I recently sent a letter to R. Sargent Shriver, President of the Board of Education following a meeting with Mr. Thos. J. Higgins, Director of School Population and Facilities The letter reproduced below is the outgrowth of that meeting:

March 2, 1959

Dear Mr. Shriver:

Thank you for your help in initiating an opportunity for people in our community to review with Superintendent Higgins the factors affecting the Board of Education's selection of a site in the 2100 block of South Drake Ave.

At the meeting on February 26 we found ourselves in agreement with Mr. Higgins that the substantial differences between the site he recommended and that recommended by the GLCC were the following:

1. The Board's site is 200 feet farther away from the Blessed Sacrament School than GLCC's recommended site.
2. The Board's site is approximately square in shape, whereas the GLCC's recommended site is in the form of an oblong.
3. The Board's site is more costly to acquire than the GLCC's recommended site.
4. The Board's site involves the displacement of a larger number of persons than does the GLCC recommendation.
5. The Board's site involves less vacant land than does the GLCC recommendation.
6. The Board's site involves the demolition of newer structures than does the GLCC recommendation.

Mr. Higgins felt that the first two of these differences as listed above were sufficient to overcome the objections to the Board's site which are implicit in the last four.

We do not agree with this evaluation of the relative significance of the first two points as opposed to the last four. We are still in favor of placing the school on the west side of Drake Avenue. We should like to make it clear, however, that we would prefer to have a school on the east side of Drake than to have no school at all, and we hope that this is not the alternative with which we will be presented.

In closing may we repeat our thanks for the sympathetic consideration given to us by Mr. Higgins which is typical of the cooperative relationship that has existed over the years in our dealings with the Board of Education.

Sincerely yours,

Claude J. Peck, Jr., President

LEE A. SMITH, NEW PRESIDENT OF FRANKLIN PARK, COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LEE A. SMITH

Lee A. Smith, of 1428 S. Kolin Ave., was recently elected president of the Franklin Park Community Council. Mr. Smith was a member of the Council about a year. "The administration is off to a good start, said Mr. Lee. We are busy organizing new committees to meet the needs of the community and our Youth and Recreation Committee will be set up at the March 19 meeting at 1409 S. Kolin Ave." A significent step in Mr. Smith's new presidency was a recent meeting of all block club presidents to correlate the efforts of individual block clubs for a common purpose. Mr. J.W. Woolfolk, block club organizer, is available as a consultant. If you need advise, call him at LA 1–0189, says Mr. Smith.

Briefs continued–

Glover, Children's Librarian reports that every Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. there is "Story Hour for Children". Why not send your child to this entertaining morning of stories for children?...New Supervisor at **Douglas Park Field House** is Durell S. Hunter. Mr. Hunter says, "The facilities for meetings, swimming, sports, and other events are splendid, and should be used even more by Lawndale adults and children." The **First Annual Tea** of the **Triangle Neighbors Community Center** operating in Arnold Memorial Church, 1330 S. Fairfield, was held March 11. The Steering Committee included eight social and fraternal organizations. The funds raised at this event are going for the work of the Community Center...A "self-help" unit at **Mt. Sinia Hospital** will be completed soon. It is designed for patients whose condition permits them to care for themselves to some extent and at a lower cost...**Mr. Sylvester Beene, 1430** S. Avers, and **Mr. William Evans,** 3310 Douglas were recent winners in the Defender's Jackpot contest...**The Infant Welfare Station** at Marcy Center has moved to 4350 W. 16th St...The Young Adults Group for recreation and community service are meeting at Sears YMCA every Thurs. until April 2 at 7:30 P.M. Plan to Come.

GREATER LAWNDALE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

President..... Claude J. Peck, Jr.

Vice Presidents Claude Audley, Dorothy L. Branch, Paul P. Howard, Hazzard Parks, Joseph Rosen, Vic H. Scher, Charles D. Wilson, Ferrin E. Wilson, Mrs. Ruth Wilson, J. William Young

Secretary..... Miss Ethel Vrana

Treasurer.... Rev. C. S. Hampton

Exec. Director..... Julio Vivas

Editor..... Raymond J. Carlyle